

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 258422

12

ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER
APPROVED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER
S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)
H - MISS FOLGER
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK
NEA/ARN - MR. KORN
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 084786

R 222153Z NOV 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANAA
USINT BAGHDAD
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PAGE 02 STATE 258422

UNCLAS STATE 258422

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING NOVEMBER 22,
1974:

QUOTE: Q. THE LEBANESE ARE ACCUSING YOU OF IMPROPER BE-
HAVIOR. HOW DO YOU PLEAD?

A. WELL, LET ME SAY JUST SOMETHING ABOUT THAT ON BACK-
GROUND, IF I MIGHT.

Q. WELL, HE WASN'T ON BACKGROUND.

A. WELL, I CHOSE TO PUT MY REMARKS ON BACKGROUND. AND
SIMPLY SAY THAT WE REGRET IF THERE ARE SUCH FEELINGS, BUT
I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT, FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THAT IT IS
CUSTOMARY FOR THE UNITED NATIONS TO MEET FOREIGN DIGNI-
TARIES AND HEADS OF STATE WHEN THEY ARRIVE IN NEW YORK FOR
U.N. PURPOSES.

Q. WHY IS MR. GODLEY BEING BROUGHT HOME?

A. HE IS COMING HOME FOR CONSULTATIONS.

Q. ON THIS PARTICULAR MATTER?

A. IT WOULD RELATE TO IT, YES.

Q. DID YOU ASK HIM TO COME HOME, OR WAS HE TOLD TO GO
HOME BY THE LEBANESE?

A. WELL, NO, IT WAS A MUTUALLY AGREED UPON DECISION
BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND AMBASSADOR GODLEY.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 258422

Q. ARE YOU STILL ON BACKGROUND?

A. NO. JUST THE FIRST PART WAS ON BACKGROUND.

Q. YOUR BACKGROUND STATEMENT, DOES IT ADDRESS MR. FRAN-
JIYAH'S STATEMENT THAT HE WAS TO HAVE MET WITH PRESIDENT
FORD AND THAT THE MEETING WAS CANCELLED?

A. WELL, ON THAT PART OF IT, I WOULD MAKE THIS REMARK, AND THAT IS, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT PRESIDENT FRANJIAH WANTED TO MAINTAIN HIS PRESENCE IN THIS COUNTRY IN THE CONTEXT OF HIS MISSION TO THE U.N., AND THEREFORE PRESIDENT FRANJIAH THOUGHT IT BEST NOT TO ARRANGE A MEETING IN WASHINGTON.

Q. DID WE SEEK A MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND PRESIDENT FRANJIAH ORIGINALLY?

A. I WILL HAVE TO CHECK THAT. ON BACKGROUND, I THINK IT WAS BEING DISCUSSED, BUT I DON'T KNOW.

Q. DID HE WANT THE PRESIDENT TO COME TO NEW YORK?

A. NO, I DON'T THINK THAT WAS THE QUESTION.

Q. DID YOU SAY MR. GODLEY IS COMING HOME IN CONNECTION WITH THIS MATTER FOR CONSULTATION IN CONNECTION WITH THIS AFFAIR?

A. I AM SAYING THAT HE IS COMING HOME FOR CONSULTATIONS AND IF YOU ARE ASKING ME, DOES IT RELATE TO THIS MATTER, I WOULD SAY "YES, CERTAINLY."

Q. YOUR EXPRESSION OF REGRET ON BACKGROUND, DOES THAT MEAN THAT THERE IS NO PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF REGRET OFFICIALLY? DO YOU WANT TO LEAVE THAT ON BACKGROUND?

A. I WILL LEAVE IT ON BACKGROUND.

Q. WHEN I ASK YOU TO COMMENT, WHAT SHALL I SAY? THAT YOU UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 258422

SAY "NO COMMENT" AND THEN "OTHER OFFICIALS SAID THAT THEY REGRETTED IT." IS THIS THE WAY THAT YOU WANT US TO PUT IT?

A. WITH RESPECT TO THE QUESTION OF REGRET, YOU CAN SAY "PUBLICLY THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT REGRETS IF THERE IS SUCH A FEELING."

Q. HAS THERE BEEN ANY DETERMINATION THROUGH THE U.N. MISSION OR OTHERWISE, WHY THE U.N. FAILED TO MEET HIM?

A. I DON'T HAVE THE FACTS MYSELF. I AM NOT SURE THAT THE U.N. OFFICIALS DID NOT MEET HIM.

Q. HOW IS IT, IN GENERAL? A HEAD OF STATE IS COMING FOR

U.N. PURPOSES. IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE AT THE AIRPORT?

A. I THOUGHT I HAD POINTED OUT IN MY BACKGROUND STATEMENT, MY OPENING STATEMENT, THAT IT WAS CUSTOMARY FOR THE U.N. TO MEET THEM.

Q. YES. THIS IS A NEGATIVE. YOU WANT TO SAY THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS NOT REPRESENTED.

A. THAT IS CORRECT.

Q. WHO DOES THE PRESIDENT OF LEBANON THINK SHOULD HAVE MET HIM?

A. I'M JUST NOT CERTAIN ABOUT THAT.

Q. IS IT CAST IN THEIR PROTEST OR IN THEIR COMPLAINT? IS IT SPECIFIED THAT THE COMPLAINT IS BECAUSE NO OFFICIAL OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MET HIM THAT THE PROTEST OR COMPLAINT WAS LODGED?

A. WELL, ALL I HAVE SEEN ARE THE PUBLIC REMARKS WHICH HAVE COME OUT OF BEIRUT. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER TO ADD.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 258422

Q. DID HE HAVE ANY REASON TO THINK HE WAS GOING TO BE MET BY A HIGH U.S. OFFICIAL? HAD HE ASKED FOR SUCH A MEETING OR ASKED TO BE GREETED, OR DID OUR EMBASSY INDICATE TO HIM IN BEIRUT THAT HE WAS GOING TO BE MET?

A. I JUST DON'T KNOW.

Q. HAS HE EVER BEEN HERE BEFORE?

A. I DON'T BELIEVE SO.

Q. I AM NOT CLEAR ON THIS. YOU SAY THAT IT IS CUSTOMARY FOR U.N. OFFICIALS TO MEET U.N. DIGNITARIES. YOU SAY THE U.S. IS NOT REPRESENTED. PUT IT POSITIVELY. DOES THE UNITED STATES MISSION IN NEW YORK MEET THESE HEADS OF STATE WHENEVER THEY ARRIVE FOR U.N. OR OTHER PURPOSES? OR DON'T THEY?

A. ON BACKGROUND, IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT IT IS CUSTOMARY FOR U.N. OFFICIALS TO RECEIVE FOREIGN DIGNITARIES AND HEADS OF STATE COMING TO NEW YORK, AND THAT DOES NOT INVOLVE A UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE.

Q. BUT DOES THE UNITED STATES EVER PUT IN ANY APPEARANCE, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE BEING GREETED BY THE U.N. PROTOCOL OFFICE? DOES THE UNITED STATES SEND SOMEONE TO LOOK ON?

A. I THOUGHT I JUST ANSWERED THAT QUESTION.

Q. I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE. YOU SAID THE U.N. GREET'S THEM, BUT WE ARE ASKING, DO THEY EVER SEND A REPRESENTATIVE?

A. IF YOU ARE ASKING ME IF WE HAVE EVER SENT AN AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE TO KENNEDY AIRPORT TO MEET A FOREIGN OFFICIAL, HEAD OF STATE, COMING TO THE UNITED NATIONS, I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK. I CAN'T SAY ABSOLUTELY THAT AT SOME TIME IN THE PAST THAT THAT DID NOT OCCUR.

Q. THAT IS A VERY IMPORTANT POINT, YOU KNOW. I CAN REMEMBER THAT A HEAD OF STATE OF A VERY SMALL COUNTRY CALLED THE SOVIET UNION CAME TO THIS COUNTRY FOR THE U.N.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 258422

IN 1960 AND THERE WAS NOBODY THERE FROM THE UNITED STATES.

Q. ISN'T IT CUSTOMARY WHEN THE HEAD OF A STATE IS COMING TO THIS COUNTRY, FOR THE U.S. AMBASSADOR SENT TO THAT COUNTRY TO COME BACK FOR CONSULTATIONS AT THAT TIME?

A. NORMALLY WHAT OCCURS IS THAT WHEN A HEAD OF STATE IS COMING TO THE UNITED STATES ON A STATE VISIT OR AN OFFICIAL VISIT, THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO THAT COUNTRY WILL COME BACK TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VISIT. BUT THAT IS THE NORMAL PRACTICE. THAT DOES NOT APPLY TO THE U.N.

Q. IT WAS ANTICIPATED THEN THAT THIS WOULD BE STRICTLY A U.N. AFFAIR BY THE PRESIDENT OF LEBANON.

A. THIS WAS HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS, THAT IS CORRECT.

Q. WE KNEW THAT IN ADVANCE THAT HE HAD PLANNED TO MAKE THIS STRICTLY A U.N. VISIT?

A. HE WAS COMING FOR THE PURPOSE OF ATTENDING THE UNITED NATIONS, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE UNITED NATIONS' DEBATE ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION.

Q. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, NOT RELATED, THERE IS A REPORT OUT OF DAMASCUS THAT THERE IS A GREAT POSSIBILITY THAT KISSINGER WILL GO TO DAMASCUS -- WAS PUT OUT AT BEIRUT THAT KISSINGER WILL GO TO DAMASCUS FOLLOWING THE VLADIVO-

STOK SUMMIT ON THE SUBJECT OF RENEWAL OF THE DISENGAGEMENT
OBSERVER FORCE. CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT REPORT?

A. NO.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT?

A. I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY SUCH PLAN.

Q. IS IT STILL YOUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE SECRETARY WILL
BE COMING BACK FROM PEKING WITHOUT GOING ON TO ANKARA OR
TO ANYWHERE IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 258422

A. AS FAR AS I KNOW, THERE ARE NO PRESENT PLANS FOR THAT.

Q. I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER YOU HAVE SOME COMMENT ON
THE PRESENCE, AT THIS TENSE TIME IN THE MIDDLE EAST OF
SOVIET WARSHIPS IN LATAKIA?

A. I'LL GET YOU AN ANSWER ON THAT. END QUOTE.

SUBSEQUENT TO THE BRIEFING THE FOLLOWING ANSWER WAS
POSTED FOR THE PRESS: WE HAVE NO OFFICIAL INFORMATION
INDICATING THAT THIS VISIT HAS ANY SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE.
SUCH VISITS HAVE OCCURRED FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE PAST,
SO THIS ONE IS NOT PARTICULARLY UNIQUE. WE ASSUME THE
SOVIET UNION CONTINUES TO SHARE WITH US A COMMON INTEREST
IN AVOIDING DEVELOPMENTS WHICH INCREASE TENSIONS IN THE
AREA -- TENSIONS THAT CAN ONLY ADD TO DIFFICULTIES IN
REACHING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT.
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